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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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Women-centric COVID Care Centres on cards

Family compulsions make women hide COVID symptoms and that's the reason for hesitancy, says survey

Mysuru, May 31 (BCT)- Data from the Health Department shows that the number of women getting infected by COVID-19 has gone up in the second wave though the number was low during the first wave.

Also, during the door-to-door survey in Mysuru's urban and rural areas conducted by the District Administration, it was found that there is hesitancy among women to disclose symptoms and also reach out for treatment. While the urban areas' survey was conducted by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), the rural areas' survey was taken up by Zilla Panchayat (ZP).

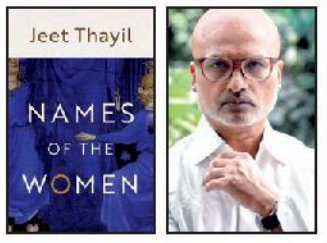
The survey has found that due to family compulsions, most women who have COVID symptoms do not report the infection to the authorities and this has hindered early detection and early treatment. Compulsions like losing income, burden of domestic work are forcing women not to report the cases but silently suffer within the confines of their homes. To tackle this, exclusive COVID Care Centres would be opened for women by the District Administration.

While everyone is facing unprecedented challenges, women are bearing the brunt of the economic and social fallout of COVID-19. Women who are from poor and marginalised families face an even higher risk of virus transmission and fatalities as they are side-lined though they make essential contributions to the households.

Many a time women are not sent to COVID Care Centres as there won't be anyone to deal with household chores. "As such, they do not get the required rest and nutrition that are available to the rest of the family in case they are infected," said Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri.

(See WOMEN on page 6)

To Our Readers



Turn to Page-6 for Abracadabra titled **"Names of the Women - 1."** —Ed

Dr. N. KANNAN

10-01-1936 - 31-05-2020

YOUR LIFE WAS A BLESSING,
YOUR MEMORY A TREASURE,
YOU ARE LOVED BEYOND WORDS,
AND MISSED BEYOND MEASURE.

A PERFECT FATHER, AND LOVING HUSBAND, AN OUTSTANDING DOCTOR, A MAGNIFICENT HUMAN BEING , HIS LIFE WAS MARKED BY UTTER SIMPLICITY AND UNCOMPROMISING HONESTY, NEVER STRAYING FROM HIS IDEALS, PRINCIPLES AND ETHICS.

We miss you terribly and you will be in our hearts forever.

Remembered By

Wife :
Romilla Kannan

Children :
Dr. K.Lakshman & Smt. Hemamalini Lakshman
Dr. Praveen Kumar and Smt. Bhavani Praveen Kumar
Smt. Shankari Janardhan & Sri M.N. Janardhan

Grand children : Amreetha, Namitha , Abhijith, Diviya, Deepthi and Lithin

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 31st May 2021

Ooty JSS International School converted into COVID Care Centre

Mysuru, May 31 (UNI)- JSS International School at Ooty has been converted into COVID Care Centre to provide treatment for COVID-19 patients. According to a release here, the entire school campus has been handed over to the Nilgiris District Administration.

Located at Theetukal, the 31-acre school campus is in a lush green landscape close to Ooty Lake. The building is aesthetically designed with optimum convenience. The boarding facilities are like a home away from home, offering all comforts.

At present 350 COVID patients have been taking treatment and recovering. About 600 patients could be accommodated on the campus. The school administration is also providing free food facilities for the patients, the statement added. At present, patients are being treated at various health facilities, including government and private hospital and COVID Care Centres. At least 30 percent of the active cases are in home quarantine. COVID-care facilities are constantly being set up with two facilities at the Youth Hostel and the Good Shepherd School having an additional capacity of 215. Now more beds have been added with the inclusion of JSS International School, Nilgiris officials said.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Surviving COVID pneumonia is an ordeal that saps the body of its vitality, allowing the black fungus to deliver the knockout punch. Extensive media coverage about the black fungus has led to fear among the public about the use of steroids in the treatment of COVID pneumonia. It becomes important to dispel this myth, and educate the public that the use of steroids in appropriate doses can be life-saving. As healthcare workers, it is imperative that we have a detailed discussion with the patient and their family about the role of steroids in the treatment of COVID pneumonia. Another common query is whether there is any preventive medication for mucormycosis. Use of prophylactic medication is uncommon, but steps can be taken to reduce the risk. Some suggestions that can be followed are wearing a clean mask, avoiding excessive steam inhalation, COVID-appropriate behaviour and proper control of diabetes under the guidance of an endocrinologist. Theories linking the new mutated strain of COVID pneumonia with increased immune suppression leading to mucormycosis have to be thoroughly investigated and research into novel treatment protocols have to be initiated. We have to put the lessons we have learnt from two devastating waves of the pandemic to use and get ahead of this black fungus epidemic. The mantra to navigating this successfully remains the same: wear masks, maintain social distance, observe appropriate hand hygiene and get vaccinated at your turn. Stay safe.

— Dr. Satyanarayana Mysore in The New Indian Express

NEWS SPARKLERS

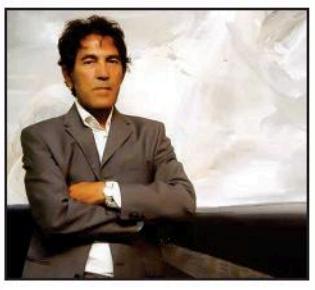
Caterpillar's camouflage on another level

New Delhi: The Common Baron Caterpillar is a true master of camouflage. When it positions itself perfectly on a mango tree leaf, it is nearly impossible to spot, even if you know it's there.

Some animals naturally develop camouflage in order to make themselves harder to spot by predators, but some are much better than others, and some blend into their natural surroundings perfectly. The Common Baron Caterpillar (Euthalia aconthea), a critter native to India and Southeast Asia, fits in the latter category. It has evolved to blend into its preferred background so well that it is nearly impossible to see.

Seen by itself, the common baron caterpillar doesn't look all that impressive. If anything, the branch-like extensions on its legs just look weird. But seeing it in its natural habitat, perfectly aligned with the stem of large mango leaves (its favorite food) is a whole different story. The common baron evolved into a master of camouflage to increase its chances of avoiding predators until it reaches the butterfly stage.

Invisible sculpture sells for 18,000 dollars



Paris: An invisible sculpture created by Italian artist Salvatore Garau recently was acquired by a private collector, who paid a whopping 15,000 euros for it during an auction earlier this month.

Titled 'I am,' the invisible work of art basically represents a void, a technically empty space that is actually occupied by the energy of the sculpture. So how does one keep an invisible sculpture? Well, the artist suggests storing the artwork in a special room, in a space free from obstruction, of about 150×150 cm (4.92×4.92 feet). Special lighting and climate control are optional, since "I Am" is immaterial...

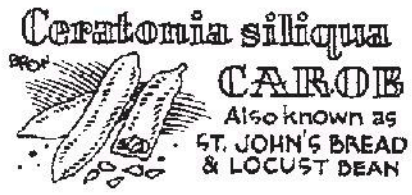
HEALTH CAPSULE

Hydration is very important, as it flushes out toxins. Fluids like coconut water, fresh vegetable juices, clear vegetable soups can be consumed daily for the revival and rejuvenation of cells in the body.

By Kavya J. - Department of Nutrition & Dietetics

COLUMBIA ASIA
COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE
A unit of ManipalHospitals

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*



Have you tried carob? It comes from a flowering evergreen shrub. It tastes like chocolate, but raw carob flour has just 1% fat and half the calories of chocolate. It's rich in B Vitamins and minerals, as well as calcium and it's caffeine-free. Available in liquid and powder form in health food stores.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	MAY 29	MAY 30
Day's Positive Cases	1,720	1,559
Total Positive Cases	1,40,085	1,41,644
Day's Discharges	2,176	1,846
Total Discharges	1,22,367	1,24,213
Day's Deaths	28	8
Total Deaths	1,604	1,611
Total Active Cases	16,114	15,820

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

COVID-19: CM to announce second package shortly

Bengaluru, May 31 (UNI) - Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Sunday said that he will announce a second package to the affected due to lockdown and also final decision about extension of lockdown beyond June 7.

Speaking to reporters here, he said that the Government had announced a Rs. 1,250 crore special package for some sections of the people, which was criticised by the Opposition as not sufficient. Now, the State Government is all set to announce a second package. He said he was confident of COVID cases coming 'under control in 4 to 5 days'.

Yediyurappa is expected to sit with his colleagues on June 5 to take a call on whether to extend the lockdown beyond June 7, a decision that would not be an easy one to make.

Stating that still in some districts the positive rate has continued to surge, he said so far no expert report was given on extension of lockdown and the Centre has left the issue to the State.

REALLY...?

- ***A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21 inch tongue.***
- ***Lightning strikes the Earth 6,000 times every minute.***
- ***Fire usually moves faster uphill than downhill.***
- ***Cats have over 100 vocal chords.***
- ***Camel's milk doesn't curdle.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Teacher: *Suppose, you have 4 coins in your pocket and there is a hole in the pocket, all the four coins fall down from that hole. What will you have in your pocket?*

Student: *A hole !!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 72.57
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 102.93
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 19.71
1 Euro	= Rs. 88.51

VOICE OF THE READER

Encourage Rail passengers to use e-ticket sent via

SMS or e-mail instead of printouts

Sir,

It is given to understand that Indian Railways has made a robust shift to digital transactions through e-ticket booking facility.

A passenger has the flexibility to book Rail tickets at ease through the IRCTC website and IRCTC mobile app. The e-ticket is delivered through SMS or email and acts as a valid authority with necessary ID proof while travelling.

Further, many passengers still rely on the e-ticket printouts on physical paper and carry the same along with them while travelling. It is given to understand that facility to print e-tickets on paper is still optionally enabled, apart from the facility of SMS or email confirmations sent to the passengers. Thus, it is high time now to put a complete stop to the physical printing of e-tickets only for those users registered on the IRCTC web portal or mobile application.

Indian Railways should otherwise incentivise passengers to carry only SMS or email-based e-ticket confirmations along with valid ID proof instead of the ill-conceived idea yet of printing physical e-tickets on paper. The suggestion will help Indian Railways to reduce its carbon footprint by encouraging passengers to go paper-free extensively while travelling on reserved tickets.

— Varun Dambal

Bengaluru
29.5.2021

Judge Vasudevamurthy no more

He was the first one to write judgements in Kannada; took a monthly salary of just Re.1 while serving in Lokayukta

Bengaluru, May 31- Retired District Judge **K.V. Vasudevamurthy** (83), who was known as the first Judge in the State to write judgements in Kannada, passed away here on Saturday morning. A resident of Hanumanthanagar in Bengaluru, he leaves behind his wife. Last rites were conducted at T.R. Mill crematorium in Chamarajpet here on Saturday evening.

Vasudevamurthy began his legal practice in Shivamogga and became a Judge in 1971. He wrote the judgements in Kannada for the first time in judicial history of the State and was awarded the State Prize twice for best writing of judgement.

He served as Secretary of the then Karnataka Law Board and has the credit of awarding a collective compensation of more than Rs.200 crore through Janata Courts.

He had served as Registrar of National Environment Appellate Authority, New Delhi. He also functioned as Vigilance Director of Karnataka Lokayukta for over four years, during which he unearthed several scams in Bengaluru's BBMP. While serving the Lokayukta Institution, he took a monthly salary of just Re.1.

Obituary

Nagarathna

Mysuru, May 31- Nagarathna (52), a resident of K.G. Koppal, passed away yesterday in city.

She leaves behind her husband, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at Veerashaiva Burial Grounds this morning, according to family sources.

Vimalamma Rajanand

Vimalamma Rajanand (78), wife of late senior actor Rajanand and a resident of 7th Cross, St. Mary's Road, N.R. Mohalla, passed away on Saturday night at her residence in city.

She leaves behind one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at the foot of Chamundi Hill yesterday, according to sources.

Gowramma

Gowramma (65), a resident of Hootagalli, passed away on Saturday in city.

She leaves behind her husband, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Mukthidhama in Vijayanagar 4th Stage yesterday, according to family sources.

COVID: Centre announces additional benefits under EPFO, ESIC schemes

New Delhi, May 31 (UNI)- The Ministry of Labour and Employment on Sunday announced additional benefits for workers through ESIC and EPFO schemes to address the fear and anxiety of workers about well-being of their family members due to increase in incidences of death due to COVID-19.

Enhanced social security is sought to be provided to the workers without any additional cost to the employer, the Ministry said in a statement.

Currently, for the Insured Persons (IPs) under ESIC, after death or disablement of the IP due to employment injury, a pension equivalent to 90 percent of average daily wage drawn by the worker is available to the spouse and widowed mother for life long and for children till they attain the age of 25 years.

For the female child, the benefit is available till her marriage.

To support the families of IPs under the ESIC scheme, it has been decided that all dependent family members of IPs who have been registered in the online portal of ESIC prior to their diagnosis of COVID and subsequent death due to the disease, will be entitled to receive the same benefits and in the same scale as received by the dependants of insured persons who die as a result of employment injury, subject to two eligibility conditions.

First condition is that the IP must have been registered on the ESIC online portal at least three months prior to the diagnosis of COVID disease resulting in death.

Second condition is that the IP must have been employed for wages and contributions for at least 78 days should have been paid or payable in respect of deceased IP during a period of one year immediately preceding the diagnosis of COVID disease resulting in death.

IPs, who fulfill the eligibility conditions and have died due to COVID, their dependants will be entitled to receive monthly payment at the rate of 90 percent of average daily wages of insured person during their life. The scheme will be effective for two years from March 24, 2020.

Under the EPFO's Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme all surviving dependent family members of the members of this scheme are eligible to avail benefits of EDLI in case of death in harness of the member.

At present under this scheme, the benefits extended in case of death of a worker are no requirement of minimum service for payment of Gratuity, family pension is paid as per provisions under EPF & MP Act, sickness benefit of 70 percent of wages for 91 days in a year is paid in the event of worker falling sick and not attending office.

A notification issued by the Ministry has made amendments to this scheme. Amount of maximum benefit has been increased from Rs. 6 lakh to Rs. 7 lakh to the family members of deceased employee.

Minimum assurance benefit of Rs. 2.5 lakh to eligible family members of deceased employees who was a member for a continuous period of 12 months in one or more establishments preceding his death in place of existing provision of continuous employment in the same establishment for 12 months.

It will benefit contractual/casual labourers who were losing out on benefits due to condition of continuous one year in one establishment, the Ministry said.

Restoration of provision of minimum Rs. 2.5 lakh compensation retrospectively, that is, from February 15, 2020.

In coming 3 years, the actuary has estimated that eligible family members will get an additional benefit of Rs. 2,185 crore from EDLI fund in the years 2021-22 to 2023-24. Number of claims on account of death under the scheme has been estimated to be about 50,000 families per year including increase in claims taking into account estimated death of about 10,000 workers, which may occur due to COVID.

Modi compliments Sireesha Gajini, woman driver of Oxygen Express

Loco Pilot Sireesha Gajini driving the Oxygen Express recently.

Bengaluru, May 31 (UNI) - Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 'Mann Ki Baat,' interacted with Loco Pilot Sireesha Gajini who drove the Oxygen Express. He complimented her as an embodiment of woman power.

The PM stated that mothers and sisters would be proud to hear that one Oxygen Express is being run fully by women. Every woman in the country will feel proud of that. Not just that, every Indian will feel proud.

Sireesha said Railways has been supportive in this endeavour and facilitated quick transport through 'Green Corridor.'

Responding to the PM, she said that her parents were her inspiration. Her father encouraged all his children — all three daughters — to study well and supported them in their professional ambitions, she said.

Loco Pilot Sireesha Gajini, Assistant Loco Pilot N.P. Aparna, Assistant Loco Pilot Neelam Kumari have been part of various Oxygen Express trains driven from Jolarpettai Jn to Bengaluru.

They have taken up the responsibility when their turn came up, for driving these trains, readily. These women who have forayed into what was till now considered as the forte of men will emerge as shining examples of hope for numerous girls dreaming of a career in Railways, in frontline roles.

It may be mentioned, *SOM* had published a news item titled *"Women Loco Pilots steer Oxygen Express to Bengaluru "* on May 23, 2021.

NEWS BRIEFS

Calling artists

The Kannada and Culture Department has invited applications from artists who are in financial distress due to COVID crisis, for availing Rs. 3,000 financial assistance. The artists can apply online through the Government portal ***[http://serviceonline.gov.in/karnataka]***. The applicants must be professional artists aged above 35 years, with a minimum of 10 years service. The applicants must not be pensioners of Kannada and Culture Department and also not be employed with the Government. The last date for applying is June 5. For details, call Ph: 0821-2513225 or Mob: 99005-34569, according to a press release.

Police Constables appointment

The Police Department has invited applications from eligible candidates for appointment of 3,533 Men and Women Police Constables (Civil) in existing vacancies across the State. The last date to apply is June 25. For details, log on to the Department's official website: ***https://recruitment.ksp.gov.in***

Phone-in programme

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services of Mysuru Zilla Panchayat (ZP) will be holding Phone-in programme on the first and third Mondays of every month on issues concerning cattle health and care. The Phone-in will take place from 10 am to 11 am on both the days. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2420606 or Mob: 99450-42815.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80 feet
Today	:	87.54 feet
Inflow	:	1,100 cusecs
Outflow	:	389 cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00 feet
Today	:	2,264.39 feet
Inflow	:	810 cusecs
Outflow	:	725 cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00 feet
Today	:	2,822.60 feet
Inflow	:	140 cusecs
Outflow	:	80 cusecs

Strict measures keep Nagarahole Tribal hamlets free of COVID infections

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

Mysuru, May 31- At a time when the District Administration is battling to bring down rising COVID caseload, the measures taken by local Gram Panchayat (GP) and Forest Department has ensured that tribal hamlets in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve are free of the virus thus far.

Over 2,000 tribals living in 11 tribal hamlets of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve located in Antarasanthe hobli of H.D. Kote taluk in the district, have earned national attention for keeping away the virus from their hamlets even as several other villages in the vicinity are affected by the pandemic.

Though thousands of vehicles used to ply on Mysuru-Manandavadi Road that runs close to these tribal hamlets and connects Karnataka with Kerala, the strict measures taken by the Forest Department officials and GP has ensured that these hamlets are not affected. The measures has also ensured that people in 13 villages in the vicinity are safe from the deadly pandemic.

D.B. Kuppe GP has jurisdiction over 11 tribal hamlets and 13 villages in the surroundings. As the COVID caseload began to surge all of a sudden in the second wave of the attack, the health and safety of more than 7,700 people living in these hamlets and villages was taken care of by H.D. Kote Taluk Administration with support from the Forest Department.

The D.B. Kuppe GP covers D.B. Kuppe Haadi, Bavali Haadi, Thimmana Hosahalli Haadi, Maleyoor Haadi, Manimoole Haadi, Anemala Haadi, Golur Haadi, Macchur Haadi, Hosur Haadi, Sebina Kolli Haadi and Balle Haadi.

The villages covered include D.B. Kuppe village, Seebi village, Kadegadde, Bavali, Vadakana Maala, Thimmanahosahalli, Anemala, Nettakallahundi, Hosur, Macchur, Hullumotakkal, Bogapura and Golur.

While 2,151 people live in the 11 hamlets, 5,619 people live in the 13 villages.

Though the District Administration failed to take timely precautionary and safety measures for taking on the deadly contagion, the H.D. Kote Taluk Administration took some advance measures for safeguarding these villages which are located close to Karantaka-Kerala border, from the deadly virus.

As a first step, the entry of outside people, especially those from villages on the Kerala side of the border, were barred from entering villages and hamlets.

The authorities banned crossing the border by boat on Kabini river flowing through the forest that separates the two States, one month ahead of the surge. The authorities also ensured that there is no physical meeting between villagers living in hamlets and villages along Kerala border. Also, no vehicle travelling on Mysuru-Manandavadi Road was allowed to stop near the villages and hamlets. Besides it was also ensured that vehicle drivers maintain a perfect hygiene and stay a safe distance from villagers. This apart, the entry and exit from villages was completely shut down and no vehicle allowed stopping or parking in the vicinity of the villages.

D.B. Kuppe GP Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) H.P. Prashanth said that all precautionary and safety measures were taken well in advance.

Pointing out that a door to door survey was carried out in the villages and hamlets soon after the second wave began, he said that entry or exit of people from villages was strictly monitored.

Noting that boat travel to enter Kerala by crossing Kabini river was banned, thus cutting off ties between hamlets and villages on Kerala side of the border, he said that all tribals were tested early soon as they showed signs of the infection.

Pointing out that Medical Kits that contained prescribed tablets were distributed among tribals, Prashanth said that five people tested positive in the initial stages and attributed the infections to one among them from Anemala village who had gone to Kerala in his personal capacity. However, all the infected asymptomatic patients were immediately shifted to a COVID Care Centre (CCC) after they were tested at Kerala lab.

Highlighting the measures taken by the Taluk Administration elsewhere in the taluk, he said that all people coming under D.B. Kuppe GP have been distributed ration kits that contained 10-kg of rice and other ration articles.

All the 7,770 people living in the GP jurisdiction are safe from contracting the virus, he added.

Simha-Sindhuri spat reaches CM's court

Mysuru-Kodagu MP seeks probe into setting up of step-down hospitals; fund utilisation

"When Rohini Sindhuri took over as Mysuru DC, I had defended her as the Opposition party leaders made disparaging remarks against her. I had taken a stand that in public life there is no place for personal remarks. But now her insensitive attitude is blocking COVID care and the number of deaths has increased drastically. As a responsible citizen, I had expressed concern and I had asked her to visit villages to take stock of the ground reality. But she resorted to raise public suspicion against elected representatives. This is disgusting."

— Pratap Simha, MP, Mysuru-Kodagu

Mysuru, May 31 (BCT)- The war of words between Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha and Mysuru Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rohini Sindhuri reached a crescendo yesterday with the MP putting the ball in the court of Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar.

The MP wrote to Somashekar, sending copies to CM and State Chief Secretary, seeking a probe into the IAS Officer and the District Health Officer (DHO) for closing down 16 private COVID Care Centres (CCCs). He stated in his letter that the investigation must bring to light who accorded permission to open the CCCs or step-down hospitals.

Soon after the MP wrote the letter, Rohini Sindhuri hit back and said that charges against her are motivated and personal. She said that her focus was to make Mysuru a COVID-free district.

Sources said the Chief Minister has taken note of the rumblings in Mysuru and will soon put an end to it. Somashekar has confirmed to reporters that the CM will put an end to the war of words between the MP and DC and both will be asked to work together in co-ordination.

FUND UTILISATION

In his letter, Pratap Simha sought accountability and explanation for Rs. 41 crore that has been released by the State Government for COVID-19 management in Mysuru. He accused the DC of blocking efforts to procure medicines by citing rules and procedures.

"District Minister Somashekar ensured the release of Rs. 41 crore but officials in many review meetings say that they are handicapped due to lack of funds. We want an explanation on how the money was spent. There must be accountability and transparency on how the public money is spent," he stated.

BONE OF CONTENTION

On the CCCs or step-down hospitals for mild COVID symptoms, the MP raised several issues like these units must have approval under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishment (KPME) Act. "These facilities must have suitable medical professionals and para-medical staff. Such hospitals must write to the DHO seeking permission and the DHO must inspect the units and only then accord the permission," Pratap Simha said.

An expert committee has to ascertain the facilities available in a hospital and submit a report to the DC before any decision can be taken. But neither was a committee constituted nor was there any report. In Mysuru, several private CCCs were set up throwing all the rules into the wind and no procedure was followed, the MP said.

He questioned the DC and DHO on what basis permission was granted to establish the step-down hospitals and on whose recommendations or based on what report the CCCs were allowed to open. Pratap Simha has told the Minister and the CM that only a proper investigation would bring out the truth on whose interests were served by setting up the 16 CCCs.

BEDS IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS

On the number of beds reserved in private hospitals for Government-referred patients, the MP demanded to know as per the order issued by the Chief Secretary, 50 percent of the beds (in the first order) and 75 percent of beds (in the second order) must be handed over to the Government by private hospitals.

"In many meetings chaired by Minister Somashekar, the District Administration was asked to appoint Nodal Officers to ensure that the beds are handed over and the hospitals fell in line. Despite the order, the Mysuru Administration dilly-dallied on the appointment of Nodal Officers. The number of beds available in all private hospitals, the number of government patients admitted and the number of other patients admitted must be made public," he demanded.

Mincing no words, Pratap Simha went on to call Rohini Sindhuri 'insensitive' and asserted that an investigation would bring out the DC's 'true colours'.

Charges against me false, misleading: DC

'Every rupee spent on COVID care and management accounted for'

"I have been the target of non-stop, motivated and personal attacks from the day I joined Mysuru as DC. I have ignored them as, during the pandemic, I want to devote time for controlling COVID.

"When personal attacks did not distract the District Administration from its COVID work, now false and irresponsible statements with respect to COVID-19 management have started. These statements, though false, but coming from persons holding high and responsible positions create panic, shake the confidence of the public and actually harm the fight against COVID.

"Anyone is welcome to scrutinise the accounts... In any case all these expenditures are subject to audit by CAG in due course. Presently, issues are being raised for extraneous reasons.

— Rohini Sindhuri, Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru

Mysuru, May 31 (BCT)- Facing a scathing attack from MP Pratap Simha, Mysuru DC Rohini Sindhuri has stated that her only goal and focus is to make Mysuru COVID-free and save people. The DC released the expenditure details with a note to the media where she took pot-shots against *netas*. She, however, did not name the MP.

She refuted the allegations and said the charges against her were both false and misleading. She said every rupee spent on COVID care and management was accounted for and her integrity is impeccable.

"I have been the target of non-stop, motivated and personal attacks from the day I joined Mysuru as DC. I have ignored them as, during the pandemic, I shall devote each ounce of my energy to COVID-19 control," she said.

"When personal attacks did not distract the District Administration from its COVID work, now false and irresponsible statements with respect to COVID-19 management have started. These statements, though false, but coming from persons holding high responsible positions create panic, shake confidence of the people and actually harm the fight against COVID-19," she regretted.

REMARKABLE FEAT

At 72 percent, Mysuru has the highest vaccination percentage in the State and this has been achieved by tireless work. The Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is one of the lowest in the State and testing is about 150 percent of the target given by State. Explaining the work point-by-point, she said that Mysuru was the first district to implement Computerised Bed Allotment System in November 2020. COVID Mitra initiative to give the promptest healthcare to COVID patients is a model for the State, she said.

"More than 30,000 patients have been given medical consultations. Contact tracing, quarantine watch of primary contacts is silently and tirelessly going on and thousands of primary contacts are tracked and tested every day. We had a foresight of that on April 13 itself and we attempted to screen travellers from Bengaluru. The cases are on the decline and we are working towards COVID-free Mysuru by July 1, 2021," she added.

"Mysuru got the Disaster Management Funds for management of COVID-19 from March 2020 until today. No specific allegation has been made whatsoever. And anyone is welcome to scrutinise the accounts. Each and every expenditure has been as per financial norms, prescribed procedure and guidelines of Government. In any case, all these expenditures are subject to audit by CAG in due course and present issues are being raised for extraneous reasons," the DC noted.

Expenditure details from March 2020

Govt. released Rs. 41 crore; Rs. 36 crore spent so far

- **Rs. 13 crore** spent on procuring medical equipment, medicine, PPE kits, masks and stationery items to District Hospital
- **Rs. 7 crore** spent on testing materials and consumables for Mysore Medical College and Research Institute
- **Rs. 5 crore** spent on setting up isolation centres, COVID Care Centres and maintenance
- **Rs. 4 crore** spent on hotel accommodation for those in quarantine and food facility for the patients
- **Rs. 4 crore** spent on vaccination and testing vehicles
- **Rs. 1 crore** for oxygen supply
- **Rs. 1 crore** for swab collection and outsourced staff
- **Rs. 1 crore** for miscellaneous — telephone, internet, computer, shamiyana

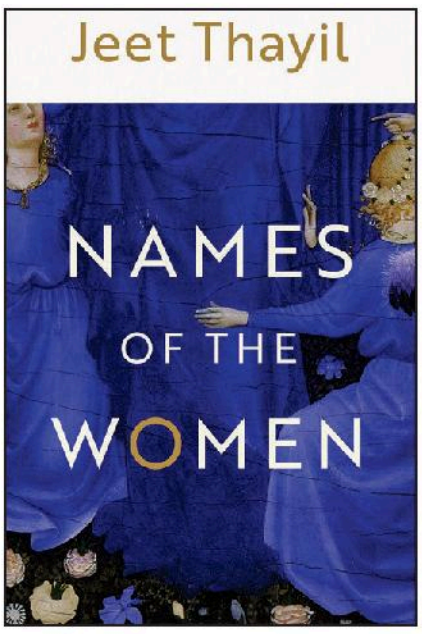
TOTAL EXPENDITURE

Rs. 36 crore

Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Names of the Women - 1



Front cover of the book

Author Jeet Thayil

In the month of April 2021, I was going through the weekly magazine *'OPEN'* and the review of a book titled *'Names of the Women'* by **Jeet Thayil** drew my attention. It is because of the name of the author, rather than the title of the book, that I decided to read the review that had more about the author and less about the book. Hence, I decided to get the book itself from Amazon. The book was on my table in two days.

I went through it from cover to cover. A book of 185 pages beautifully produced but for me it was incomprehensible in the first reading. The blurb says it is a novel. If it is, so be it.

However, for me, it is about 15 women who had known Jesus Christ. The author, as a novelist, had taken liberty to go on an imaginary rambling trip writing about what these 15 women saw and experienced during the early days and later days of Christ from birth to crucifixion and resurrection.

The emphasis was on the fact or fiction, nobody knows which of the two, about the resurrection. The novel says the resurrection was witnessed, nay 'discovered' (if not invented) by the women, not by men. However, it was men's world and they took credit for reporting the resurrection after going to the tomb. The book completely excludes the role of men and resurrects the role of women in being present at the last moments of Christ on the Cross, burial and resurrection.

The book seems like a hagiography of Christ and John the Baptist as witnessed by different women, 15 in number, covered in the book. Let it be.

As a writer in English, Jeet Thayil seems to adopt a style of his own, like many other English writers in the past. He uses many words of things and objects used in those Biblical period which may be easily understandable to those who have read the Bible in depth.

Apart from the text being replete with ancient Biblical nouns and verbs, the text is narrated in a way the reader is made anxious to know the person (woman in this case) dealt with in the chapter. And as if a denouement or a resolution of a suspense, the name of the woman appears in a stunted sentence of two or three words at the end. What can one call it? Certainly not magic realism or whatever style some writers adopt to write a novel to win a Booker Prize.

All I found was a difficult reading that I had to read the book twice to understand the story, doggedly pursuing the text chapter by chapter. I guess I have understood the story of the novel. Of course, my reading of the Bible and the story or the life of Christ made it possible for me to understand the text which is written in a sort of esoteric language, if I may say so.

Sometimes the text leaves you wondering what could be the inner meaning of the narration because it is written in a subtle language wrapped in subterfuge. Herein lies the beauty of a book written in a unique way I have not read in all my life. Let me give one example:

"The old priest speaks with her old betrothed and over many days and nights they come to an agreement. Her future husband comes to her and takes her hands in his.

'You have been touched,' he tells her.

'No', she says. 'I have not.'

'Not by a man but by an angel,' the old man says.

'I have been touched by no one,' she says, looking at his brown hands on her own, 'except you'."

Reading this (chapter 23, page 175), I was left wondering if it was about the 'Immaculate conception.' Jeet Thayil has his inscrutable way of writing wrapped in riddles! Let me not dilate.

Those who have read the Bible and the life of Jesus Christ will enjoy the book, though the description of what some of the women have undergone will disturb any sensitive person. And what a wonderful, honest stenographer Jesus got in Mary of Magdala to write down his experience while on the Cross and later after resurrection!

This book is a testimony to Jeet Thayil's creative genius both in selecting a subject hitherto not dealt with by any writer and in adapting a writing style that seems invented specially to write this novel culled out of the life story of Jesus Christ.

[To be concluded]

e-mail
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Women-centric Centres

(Continued from page 1)

To solve this problem, the District Administration is specially focussing on women. As part of the programme, separate COVID Care Centres would be opened for women within the MCC limits and also in the Taluk-level and rural areas.

Keeping in mind that it is women who disproportionately bear the socio-economic hardships during COVID times as they are critical contributors to their households and communities, the District Administration has spelt out a strategy to focus on their response and recovery process.

The Corporation has been directed to open COVID Care Centres like in all Taluks in the Government set up like hostels and buildings so that the 5,625 patients who are in home isolation can effectively be isolated and monitored. Also, separate COVID Care Centres for women will be opened, the DC said.

Mysuru city has 8,865 active cases while the taluks have 6,855 active cases and all of them will be monitored Ward-wise and Panchayat-wise on a daily basis and the same will be shared for collective monitoring, Rohini Sindhuri added.

Apart from focussing on women and isolated patients, the District Administration will concentrate on screening and tracking diabetic and comorbid cases for mucormycosis (Black Fungus) and also fast-track the vaccination process. The aim is to make Mysuru COVID-free by July 1 this year, the DC stated.

Karnataka stands first in South India in vaccination drive: Minister

Bengaluru, May 31 (UNI) - Karnataka Minister for Health and Medical Education Dr. K. Sudhakar today claimed that the State stands first in South India in vaccination drive.

In a tweet, he said that the drive will move faster as vaccine delivery is picking up, thanks to Government of India support. The State received the following on May 29: 80,000 doses of Covaxin and 2,17,310 doses of Covishield.

India's COVID-19 vaccination drive is set to accelerate further as the Serum Institute of India ramps up its production capacity to manufacture and supply 9 to 10 crore doses of Covishield as compared to its production capacity of 6.5 crore doses in May.

He said the focus is on the expanded list of frontline workers and vulnerable groups. "The focus now is on institutionalised groups, as it is easier for us to assemble all of them at one single place. While our resources are stretched to the maximum, we are also collaborating with NGOs to help us on the logistics front," he said.

The vaccination drive in Karnataka has picked up steam over the last 10 days, with the Health Minister stating that the programme is on track with more than 24 lakh doses administered in Bengaluru alone.

As per official data, the daily number of new vaccinations began to rise from May 21, after the scope of frontline workers was expanded to include 22 new professions, including street vendors, prisoners, auto drivers, government transport personnel. May 21 saw the State set a new record in the number of inoculations given on a single day: 2.92 lakh doses. The numbers have since largely averaged 1.88 lakh doses per day over the last 10 days.

However, the number of people in Karnataka who have had both doses of vaccines is still relatively small at 2.72 lakh as on Sunday — which constitutes only 4.1 per cent of the Statewide population, estimated to be 6.5 crore.

District Minister asks Police to provide security for ASHA workers during survey

Mysuru, May 31 (PM&DM)- As ASHA workers are expected to face some problems during the ongoing COVID door-to-door survey, District Minister S.T. Somashekar has directed the concerned Police officials to provide security to ASHA workers during their work.

Speaking to presspersons at Heggadanahalli in Nanjangud taluk on Sunday, Somashekar lauded the service of ASHA workers who have been involved in COVID duties. Pointing out that ASHA workers may face some problems during the COVID door-to-door survey of households, he said the Police have been directed to provide them security. Asserting that the survey is expected to be completed in a couple of days, he observed that shifting asymptomatic patients found during the survey to COVID Care Centres will help in bringing down caseload in the district.

Referring to online protest by ASHA workers seeking payment of wage dues, Somashekar said that funds for wages has been released and there will be no problems in wage payment.

The entire country is complimenting the services of ASHA workers who are performing COVID duties risking their own health, he added.

Come Corona Come: Crowds defeat social distancing

Despite being a Monday — generally no meat day — people throng non-veg outlets

Mysuru, May 31 (RK&BCT)- After staying indoors for just two days from May 29 due to tougher lockdown imposed by the Mysuru District Administration, people came out in large numbers this morning to purchase essential goods from 6 am to 12 noon. All the marketplaces in city were jam-packed with no social distancing and surprisingly, even the Police adopted a let-go attitude.

Usually on Mondays, meat and fish stalls are closed as most of the people abstain from meat consumption. However, today, people rushed to buy non-vegetarian items mainly for them to store in their refrigerators for them to last till Thursday.

All meat and chicken outlets attracted customers, who stood in long queues to buy stocks. Seeing the crowds, meat, chicken and fish merchants heaved a sigh of relief as they had apprehended lack-lustre sales on Monday. They had even urged the District Administration to rethink the decision on opening meat shops on Monday and Thursday. The crowd belied the merchant's expectations.

Liquor shops too attracted crowds and many stores were open as early as 5.30 am. As the day dawned, most people had finished purchases under the cover of darkness and to avoid later rush. Bottles of various brands and sizes flew off the shelves as people had to rush to buy meat after purchasing liquor.

Though there were crowds in front of vegetable and fruit outlets and inside markets, the numbers could not beat the crowds in front of meat and liquor shops. Bakeries, eateries, hotels and dry fruit stores too witnessed rush to take away parcels.

All the social distancing norms were violated and people literally touched and leaned on each other in their enthusiasm to purchase goods and get back home early. This, however, defeated the very purpose of the lockdown and the small shopping window.

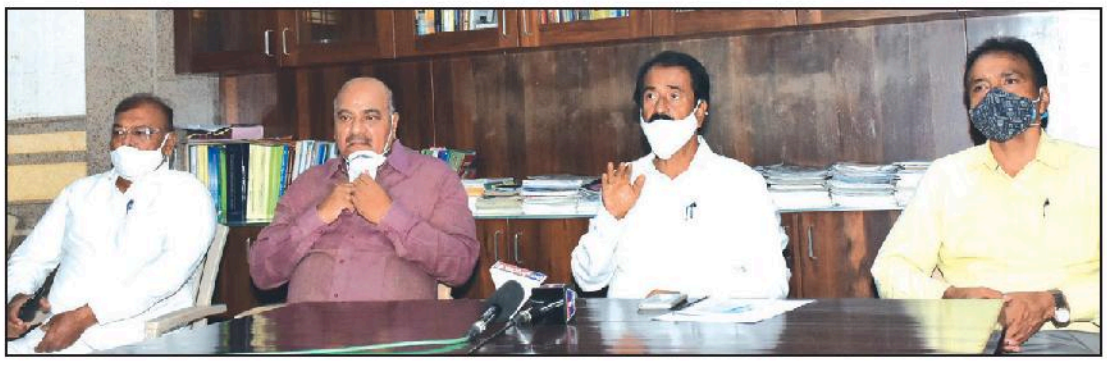
Crowds were surging by the minute at meat outlets in Hebbal, Surya Bakery Circle, K.G. Koppal, Vijayanagar High Tension Road, Kuvempunagar, Kumbarakoppal, Bogadi, Ramakrishnanagar and other areas while people thronged Santhepet, Shivarampet, Devaraja Market, Sayyaji Rao Road and surrounding areas to buy groceries.

Along with essential item shops, many shops selling non-essential goods also were open from 6 am to 12 noon today. Cloth store, tea shops, barber shops, glassware and household item shops, steel and metal shops too were open. The Police, however, did not force-shut them and allowed them to make whatever business they could, till 12 noon.

Many streets witnessed traffic jams as vehicles were allowed to be parked near shops unlike the earlier rule where people had to walk for purchases. Petrol bunks, though open daily, too witnessed rush today as many people who did not get out for two days wanted to fill up their vehicles today itself along with essential purchase.

As the clock struck 12, the Police got into action and asked shops to down the shutters. Announcements were made through loudspeakers from PCR and Garuda vehicles and people were asked to head homes. By 12.30 pm, the streets wore a deserted look.

Former MLA Vasu demands white paper on preparedness for possible COVID third wave



Mysuru, May 31 (MTY&DM)- Accusing the BJP Government of complete failure in the handling of COVID crisis, former Chamaraja MLA Vasu of the Congress party has demanded a white paper on the availability of beds, ICUs, ventilators, oxygenated beds and other medical infrastructure in Hospitals and the District Administration's preparedness for tackling the probable COVID third wave, which is expected to strike in a couple of months.

Briefing presspersons at his residence in Jayalakshmipuram here this morning, Vasu said that Mysuru has a record of good administrators and people's representatives at all levels. But the current dispensation in the district seems to be an abject failure in handling the COVID crisis.

Stating that higher authorities in the district and people's representatives are engaged in a war of words even at this critical juncture when people are losing their lives and livelihood due to the pandemic, Vasu contended that COVID control measures were limited only to press meets, reviews and meetings, while not much practical on medical infrastructure improvement is happening.

Cabinet berth for Nagendra

Observing that a legislator from the city (Nagendra or Ramdas) should have been made a Minister in the better interests of the people of Mysuru, Vasu said he would have personally preferred Nagendra for a Cabinet berth though he lost to him in the Assembly polls.

Pointing out that experts have warned about the severity of the probable third wave, Vasu questioned the Government on its preparedness to safeguard the health and well-being of citizens.

Alleging that Government Hospitals have very few ventilators and ICUs, Vasu said the Government must be highly thankful to donors who have donated ventilators and other key medical equipment.

Asserting that Mysuru has the distinction of being the only city in the country to have eight major hospitals within a 2-km stretch on a main road (KRS Road), the former MLA said that several of these hospitals were built by the previous Congress Government headed by Siddharamaiah.

Govt. owes Rs.20 crore to District Hospital contractor

Claiming that even years after completion of the District Hospital, the BJP Government had failed in providing medical and other infrastructure, he alleged that the Government owes Rs. 20 crore to the contractor who built the District Hospital. But despite such a big amount due to him, the contractor was large-hearted enough to hand over the building to the District Administration, he noted.

Arguing that most Government Hospitals have no specialists in Anaesthesia, Pulmonary medicine and Respiratory medicine, which are vital in the treatment of COVID-infected patients, he alleged that the District Hospital did not have a CT Scan facility even when positive cases are rising alarmingly in the district.

Former Mayor B.K. Prakash, leaders Shivamadu, Sundar Kumar, Pradeep Kumar and others were present.

Vaastu Feng Shui & Bio-Energetics

By **S.B.S. Surendra**, Accredited Master Feng Shui Consultant

Positive flow

In the metaphysical science of Feng Shui, energy of a space is the basis on which the overall well-being and prosperity of the occupants is assessed. In other words, a good house is one which attracts good energy, supports and nourishes the occupants and channelises the good energy all through the house. The quality of air to the openings and main door require certain design to ensure proper flow.

The good energy referred to as Sheng Chi could be defined as the energy you experience when you walk by the shore or walking through the woods which is encompassed with greenery or a home which has a harmonious surrounding, clean, fresh and sufficient ventilation and light. This kind of energy supports the occupants and the aspirations of the person. After all who would not want to usher in beneficial energy into their home or place of work. Hence, the design element in Feng Shui gives a lot of importance to the quality of the energy (Chi) flowing in and around.

The energy which can cause stagnation, loss of wealth, illness and psychological pressure is referred to as Shar Chi. The implications of being exposed to such unfavourable energies could be far reaching when one is exposed for a long time. Clutter, lack of order, untidiness, foul smell, sharp corners on the building and from external sources like electric poles, pillars and sharp corners of neighbourhood building, all have effect of Shar Chi.

Observe your surroundings and look for any such afflictions, T junction, cul de sac, property close to railway lines, cemetery and property land sloping backwards, all contribute towards unfavourable flow

> To activate good health luck, luscious green plants at East symbolising wood element, which also represents the health of the occupants, can be adapted

of energy. Shielding such afflictions with a beautiful garden could counter the ill-effects.

To ensure good energy flow to create a good Feng Shui home, look for the main energy centres in the home.

Start with the main door and the walkway and ensure it is clean, free of shrubs and thorns and main door is attractive and well-defined. Next check the bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. The quality of the energy in a home is the cumulative energy of these important zones.

Designing homes with ample cross ventilation and light by having more windows would help. Try to keep the windows open for long hours and allow natural flow of air and light, if the location of the property is such that natural light is minimal, then use full spectrum lights in the interiors and turn them on for long hours. In short to get the right balance of energy, focus on the essentials of the Feng Shui which is the 5 element theory and Interaction.

To usher in prosperity, activate the South-East of your home with elements like wood and water, for say activating good health luck, luscious green plants at East symbolising wood element, which also represents the health of the occupants, can be adapted.

[fengshui@fengshuiserver.com]

Mandya's NCC Cadet lends helping hands

Mandya, May 31- NCC Senior Under Officer Poorvi Gowda from Mandya has been lending helping hands to the needy people, who are worst hit by COVID lockdown.

After having noticed the hardship faced by a lot of people at close quarters when she was representing Karnataka & Goa, Republic Day contingent 2021 at New Delhi, she started visiting different villages in Mandya district, meeting localites, educating people on maintaining COVID-19 protocols and helping them with medical assistance wherever required.

She came across one such village, Channakegowdana Doddi, about 10 kms from Mandya, where some families needed some assistance in terms of ration for their survival during this COVID time.

She contacted the NCC unit there. At unit level, request was made by Col. Manish Prasad, CO, 14 Karnataka Bn NCC, Mysuru. The golfers fraternity of Mysuru came forward and contributed to this noble cause.

Aration distribution programme was organised at the village under Senior Under Officer Poorvi Gowda with assistance from the NCC unit. She has also volunteered to be part of COVID War Room at Mysuru.

International Webinar on Evolutionary Learning and its Engineering Applications

Mysuru, May 31- GSSS Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women (GSSSIETW), Mysuru IEEE - Student Branch, in association with IEEE - Bangalore Section, IEEE - Mysore Sub-Section and IEEE Circuits and System Society - Bangalore Chapter, had organised an International Webinar on 'Evolutionary Learning and its Engineering Applications' by Dr. Amir H. Gandomi, Professor of Data Science and an ARC DECRA Fellow, Faculty of Engineering & Information Technology, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia.

The webinar was attended by Dr. M. Shivakumar, Principal, GSSSIETW, Dr. B.D. Parameshachari, Professor & Head, Department of TCE & IEEE - Student Branch Counsellor, GSSSIETW, Mysuru and participants from all over India from different Universities.

The webinar was coordinated by Dr. G. Manjula, Associate Professor, Department of ECE, M. Keerthi Kumar and C.G. Nayana, Assistant Professors, Department of TCE, GSSSIETW, Mysuru.

The session on 'Evolutionary Learning and its Engineering Applications' was given by Dr. Amir H. Gandomi, Professor of Data Science and an ARC DECRA Fellow, Faculty of Engineering & Information Technology, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia.

During first section, Dr. Gandomi delivered speech on an evolutionary approach called genetic programming for data mining, applied evolutionary computing, and then new advances such as big data mining. Some of his studies on big data mining and modelling using Evolutionary Computation (EC) and genetic programming, case studies' topics include seismic design, inverse design and material design in particular, has been presented.

In the second section, the evolutionary optimisation algorithms and their key applications in the design optimisation of complex and non-linear engineering systems, how such algorithms have been adopted to civil, structural, and environmental engineering problems and how their advantages over the classical optimisation problems are used in action was explained. Optimisation results of large-scale engineering systems and many objective problems has been presented which show the applicability of EC.

In the last section, he explained some heuristics which are adaptable with EC and they can significantly improve the optimisation results.

The webinar was attended by more than 600 participants from across the world. All the queries of the participants were cleared by the resource persons.

Tiger census begins sans volunteers at Nagarahole

Forest Department staff installing a camera to trap tigers during the ongoing tiger census at Nagarahole. Picture right shows the staff documenting the droppings of a herbivorous animal.

Hunsur, May 31 (Raghu, HSM &KS)- COVID-19 has cast a shadow on the participation of volunteers for the annual Tiger Census at Nagarahole National Park, which has commenced from May 1.

About 150 staff, including Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), Range Forest Officers (RFO) and Anti-Poaching Camp (APC) staff, are taking part in the annual census and they have already commenced the count of herbivorous animals and plant species through Transact Line process from yesterday, which will go on for three days.

There are eight Ranges in Nagarahole, which are divided into two blocks and in the first phase, census was conducted through camera trapping in the second block comprising Nagarahole, Kallahalli, Antharasanthe and D.B. Kuppe Ranges. Census at the first block will commence from June 1.

The Forest staff, who covered about two kilometres on foot through Transact Line at all Beats in four Ranges, collected details of preys such as Spotted Deer, Bison, Barking Deer, Sambar Deer and other herbivorous animals besides collecting data on plant species. The findings have been documented through Ecological App.

The movements, droppings, pug marks of carnivore animals like Tigers, Leopards and others were also recorded. Similarly, footprints, droppings of herbivores like Elephants, Gaur, Rabbits, Wild Boar and other herbivorous animals were studied using the guidelines and identifying them through Transact Line survey.

> Ranges such as Hunsur, Veeranahosahalli, Anechowkur and Metikuppe come in the first block. The second phase of the Tiger Census will begin from June 1 for which 450 cameras have been installed at various spots. Tiger Census helps in the conservation and protection of Tigers as well as help in the maintenance of the Reserve Park.
>
>
>
> —**D. Mahesh Kumar,**
> Head of Project Tiger at Nagarahole

Preparations made for National Tiger Census

Preparations have been made for the conduct of the 5th National Tiger Census, which would be held next year (March 2022). The National Tiger Census will be held once in four years.

Info on vultures

During this year's Tiger Census, along with the census of herbivorous animals and plant species, information and details of vultures, which were the theme birds during the 2019-20 Wildlife Week, would be collected.

BJP OBC Cell celebrates 7th anniversary of Modi Govt.

Mysuru, May 31 (PM&SSV)- As part of 7th year of BJP-led NDA Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in office, the BJP OBC Cell members celebrated it in a novel way by drawing the boxes in white paint near the shops to make people follow social distancing to check the spread of Coronavirus.

Led by the Cell City President Jogi Manju, the members formally drew the boxes in front of a medical shop near Ramaswamy Circle on Chamaraja Double Road, here on May 30.

He said this has been launched across the city simultaneously to make people follow the safety protocol. The members will draw the boxes in front of milk booths, provision stores and HOPCOMS outlets in city.

Cell General Secretary Gopi, Secretary Harish Ankit, Social Media Convener Abhilash Kotyan and others were present.

Illegal sale of liquor during lockdown

Accused arrested; car, liquor seized

Hunsur, May 31 (KK&KS)- Excise Department officials have arrested a person on charges of selling liquor illegally during lockdown and have seized a car and liquor packs from him.

The arrested is 42-year-old Vasanthkumar of Karimuddanahalli village in the taluk. The officials have seized the car (KA-45-M-2827) and about 40 litres of Original Choice 90 ml liquor packs.

Acting on a tip off, the Excise officials conducted a raid and on inspecting the car, the liquor packs were found. The officials immediately arrested the accused, seized the car and liquor packs besides registering a case. The accused has been remanded to judicial custody.

Rural Excise SP Dr. Mahadevi Bai, Dy.SP Srinivas, Excise Inspector Dharmaraju, Vigilance Squad Inspector Lokesh, Basha, Gopal, Keerthi Kumar and others took part in the raid, nabbing and seizing operation.

Notice served on two Taluk Health Officers for vaccinating Forest staff

Forest Department to once again write to the officials concerned to consider Forest staff as frontline workers

Mysuru, May 31 (MTY&SSV)- The Forest Department staff are angry following the notice slapped on two Taluk Health Officers (THOs) by the District Health Officer (DHO) for vaccinating a few Forest employees under the 18 to 44 years category.

About 8 to 10 employees of Nanjangud and H.D. Kote taluks had recently got vaccinated in the 18 to 44 years age group category. Claiming that the State-level officers had taken strong objection for vaccinating some Forest Department employees, who come under the priority group, which will get the jab after inoculation of 22 other categories, notices have been served on those two Taluk Health Officers.

This act of DHO Dr T. Amarnath has angered the Forest Department staff, who said that they were doing the job of saving the rich flora and fauna and preventing man-animal conflict. In fact, 25 forest staff, have died in the last 27 days which has been à cause of worry for them. Over a hundred personnel, who have tested positive, are still undergoing treatment in hospitals.

Meanwhile, Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) Dr. K.C. Prashanth Kumar said that, a letter was written to the DHO to consider Forest Department staff as frontline workers as they are the protectors of forests and wildlife, who are always on the field interacting with people and hence vaccinate them on priority. The issuance of notices to the THOs has brought down the confidence of Forest staff, he said and added that the Forest Department would one again write a letter in this regard.

A few staff said that they cannot work from home using the internet as they need to be on the field. Is it a crime to vaccinate Forest staff? they said.

Two killed as lorry rams into scooter

Mysuru, May 31 (MK&KS)- Two elder citizens were killed when a LPG cylinder lorry rammed into the scooter they were riding near Lalithadripura-Ring Road Junction yesterday afternoon. The deceased are Chandrappa (60) of Lalithadripura and Chinnaswamy (62), of Police Layout in city.

Yesterday afternoon at about 2.30, Chandrappa and Chinnaswamy were proceeding on the scooter from Ring Road Junction towards Lalithadripura, when the speeding LPG cylinder-laden lorry, which was proceeding towards T. Narasipur side, rammed into the scooter killing Chinnaswamy on the spot and seriously injuring Chandrappa.

Though Chandrappa was being rushed to a hospital, he breathed his last mid way, according to Police. Mysuru Rural Police, who have registered a case, are investigating.

WORD OF THE DAY

Bumbershoot

Pronunciation: BUM-ber-shoot.
Meaning: An umbrella.
Origin: Umbrellas have plenty of nicknames. In Britain, brolly is a popular alternative to the more staid umbrella. Sarah Gamp, a fictional nurse who toted a particularly large umbrella in Charles Dickens' novel Martin Chuzzlewit, has inspired some English speakers to dub oversize versions gamps. Bumbershoot is a predominantly American nickname, one that has been recorded as a whimsical, slightly irreverent handle for umbrellas since the late 1800s. As with most slang terms, the origins of bumbershoot are a bit foggy, but it appears that the bumber is a modification of the umbr- in umbrella and the shoot is an alteration of the -chute in parachute (since an open parachute looks a little like an umbrella).
Example: "Actually, it may be time to dig out the underused bumbershoot from the back of your closet.... According to Bagnall, these balmy days may be over for a while as three coming storms line up to bring cooler and wetter conditions...." — Steven Mayer, The Bakersfield Californian, 22 Jan. 2021.

THE ODD WORD

Baccivorous

Eating berries.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Bad news travels fast

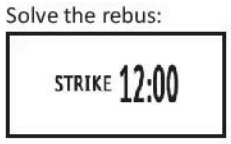
Meaning: The proverbial saying 'bad news travels fast' can be taken literally. In a wider sense it is a comment on human nature being more interested in failure than success.
Origin: 'Bad news travels fast' is first found in print in the English author Thomas Kyd's tragedic play The Spanish Tragedy, which was written sometime between 1582 and 1592. It includes these lines:
If he lived, the news would soon be here.
Nay, evil news fly faster still than good. There's not a great deal more to say about this expression. Unlike many proverbs, it is merely a literal observation on life rather than the more commonplace uplifting metaphorical motto intended to spur us to greater morality or industry.

QUOTE BOX

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile. **—Albert Einstein**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:



Answer: Hit the big time

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

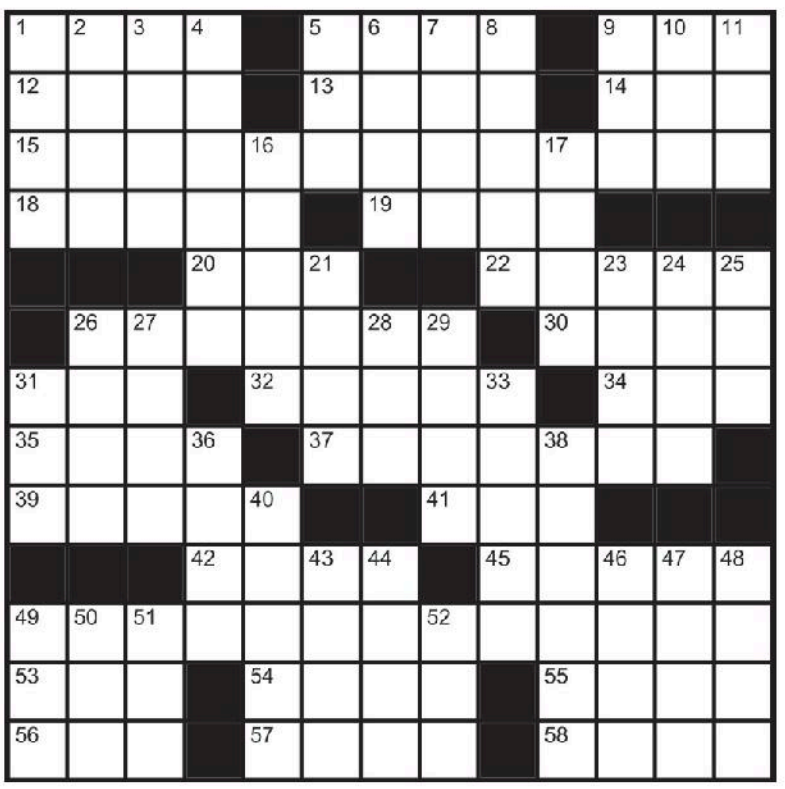
1 Remains of pressed grapes
5 Enclosure
9 Spoil
12 Famous cookie
13 Jewellery stone
14 Fuss or commotion
15 Looks shamefaced (5,4,4)
18 Bad smell or offensive odour
19 Settled, came back to earth?
20 Expose for drying
22 Anaesthetic
26 Crosses the line, oversteps or eclipses
30 Leander ____ : India's tennis star ?
31 Blunder, make a mistake
32 Overcharged - by the bee, perahps
34 Airline to Amsterdam
35 Culture medium
37 Threshold
39 Most high-born
41 3rd century Chinese dynasty
42 Beaks
45 Fountain in Rome
49 Kind (6-7)
53 City in Nigeria
54 Aim or end
55 Russian sea
56 Adult human males?
57 Salinger girl
58 Portrait painter Sir Peter

DOWN

1 ___ scale : scale of hardness in mineralogy?
2 I smell __ __ : there's something fishy here? (1,3)
3 Italian painter Guido - "rine" anagram?
4 French brandy
5 Dove-call
6 "A nap" anagram for "our own" in Hindi
7 Scottish Highlander
8 "Is Lee" turning into a girl?
9 __ West : life-jacket ?
10 Old time movie Anokhi ___
11 Pole for fishing
16 Hits a ball high into the air
17 Start of a Web site address
21 In short, no more on active duty?
23 Maori war dance
24 Like that long and slippery fish?
25 Regimental sergeant-major, in short
26 Therefore; hence
27 Photograph of the bone (1-3)
28 Pair or group of two artistes
29 Fall in the winter
31 Head of corn?
33 Ms Garbo of Hollywood
36 Currency in Capetown
38 Mersey peninsula
40 Feudal lord
43 Little brothers?
44 Counterfeit
46 "To be" in Paris?
47 Calf's meat
48 Indolently
49 Tennis star Henman
50 Female sheep
51 Not, as a prefix?
52 Estimated life expectancy

SATURDAY'S ANSWER

S	A	L	E		C	H	A	T		B	I	O
S	P	I	V		H	A	L	O		U	S	K
R	O	M	A		U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A
		A	D	A	M			A	B	B	E	Y
E	B	B	E	D		E	C	H	O			
A	L	E		E	S	P	Y		N	D	T	V
R	E	A			H	I	S			O	H	O
L	U	N	G		O	C	T	O		G	A	L
			H	E	W	S		D	I	G	I	T
E	P	E	E	S			S	A	D	E		
R	U	L	E	S	O	U	T		O	R	A	L
A	N	S		A	N	S	I		L	E	N	S
S	K	A		Y	E	A	R		S	L	I	D



SUDOKU

3					8		4	
		4	3	5			6	2
2				6			7	
			6					1
		6				7		
9					7			
	9			1				8
5	2			9	6	4		
	3		5					6

Answer to previous puzzle

5	8	2	7	9	6	3	1	4
1	3	4	8	5	2	9	6	7
9	6	7	1	4	3	2	8	5
6	1	9	3	7	8	4	5	2
7	2	5	9	1	4	8	3	6
3	4	8	2	6	5	7	9	1
4	7	1	6	8	9	5	2	3
8	5	3	4	2	1	6	7	9
2	9	6	5	3	7	1	4	8

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

B EHDSAHGS YD UBCCHTSWW! TY GBT BEHFS ZYMEK

XSBQ HA: HA VYMEK XS USEE YT SBQAU.

TODAY'S CLUE: Y EQUALS O

Saturday's Cryptoquip: Progress comes from the intelligent use of experience.

Trusts, businessmen, political leaders help the needy during COVID pandemic

Mysuru, May 31 (KS)– Office-bearers of various Trusts, businessmen, political leaders and various organisations have come forward to help the needy during the current pandemic situation. While a few Trusts and businessmen donated medical equipment and distributed essential commodities, various organisations and political leaders too are rendering their services by distributing food and groceries to the poor on a day-to-day basis.

Jain Gadiya family under the aegis of Sha Bhabuthmal Rakshanda Gadiya Foundation has donated medical equipment which are fitted inside four KSRTC Oxygen buses. Mahaveer Gadiya and Dilip Gadiya of Shree Mahalakshmi Steels & Global Impex Glass N Plywood, Mysuru, are seen along with their family members Yesh, Manav Gadiya, Goutam Kothari, Prasanna and Uday. Each customised OxyBus, fitted with oxygen cylinders and concentrators, will be stationed near various hospitals in city to help COVID patients who are not able to get oxygen beds and waiting outside the hospitals.

People's Service Trust, a registered charitable organisation, donated multiple monitors, biochemistry analyser and two ventilators to upgrade the existing COVID treatment facility at Sri Lakshmi Eshwar Srinivas Hospital at N.R. Mohalla in city, to an ICU facility. The medical equipment was donated by R. Praveen Chandra, an industrialist and Chairman of ERM Group of Companies, Bengaluru.

Dr. Rajagopal Jambunathan and Naresh Reddy of People's Services Trust handed over the equipment to Dr. Nadeem Sattar, Physician of the facility.

Rotary Mysore North distributed grocery kits to about 60 transgender families at Gayathripuram recently. Club President M.J. Swamy and others were present.

Nagarika Hitarakshane Vedike, along with pro-Kannada organisations distributed food packets and water bottles to Pourakarmikas and public, who are in trouble due to the pandemic. Vedike President Manjunath, Balakrishna Gowda, Karan Singh, Mahesh, Nagaraj, Keerthi Gowda, Umesh, Murugesh, Babanna and others were present on the occasion.

Krishnaraja Yuva Balaga distributed groceries to poor Brahmin community families in city who are in financial crisis. Congress leader N.M. Naveen Kumar, Apoorva Suresh, City Youth Congress President Mohammed Haris, Pailwan Sunil, Rajesh, Latha Balakrishna and others were present.

World Peace Centre and Annapoorna Foundation have jointly distributed groceries to poor families at Manasanagar recently. Trust Secretary S. Gunashekaran, Abhi, Somashekar, Moni and others were present.

COVID deaths: MLA S.R. Mahesh targets Dist. Administration of hiding actual figures

JD(S) legislator claims 969 have died in the district this month while the District Administration reported only 238 deaths

Mysuru, May 31 (RKB&DM)- A day after former K.R. Constituency MLA M.K. Somashekar of the Congress charged the BJP Government of massive under-reporting of COVID deaths, K.R. Nagar JD(S) MLA S.R. Mahesh today accused the District Administration of hiding the actual COVID death figures in the district.

Addressing a press meet at his Office near Ramavilas Road here this morning, Mahesh, who was also a Minister in the previous JD(S)-Congress coalition Government, contended that he was not making allegations, but was only coming up with facts and figures on the actual number of COVID deaths reported in the district from May 1 to 29 with document proof, which he has collected from hospitals and designated COVID crematoriums.

Claiming that 969 COVID patients died from May 1 to 29, he said that the District Administration had reported only 238 deaths in this period to the Government.

Arguing that the authorities had reported just about 25 percent of the actual deaths (238 out of 969), Mahesh wanted to know the fate of 731 deaths which were not reported. Citing an example, Mahesh claimed that the district authorities reported only 2 deaths to the Government, while 23 deaths were recorded the same day. Likewise, only 19 deaths were reported on May 29 as against the actual figure of 23. Accusing the authorities of hiding the actual figures from the Government, Mahesh said that such actions amounted to fooling its own people.

Targeting Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri without naming her, Mahesh said that he had told about the wrongdoings of the DC much earlier. But it seems that the Mysuru-Kodagu MP from the ruling BJP has now realised this, he said.

Pointing out that former Congress MLA Somashekar too has charged the District Administration of misleading people by gross under-reporting of COVID deaths in the city and district, he wanted to know why the District Administration was fudging statistics on COVID figures. Alleging that more than 3,000 people of the city and district have died of the deadly pandemic since the outbreak last year, he said that Government records show only about half the number.

Wondering what would be the fate of the families of the dead who find no place in Government records if the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister were to announce a compensation anytime in the future, he questioned why the authorities were making false submissions to the Government on COVID deaths and cases.

Arguing that such false submission to the Government amounts to violation of human rights, he wondered what the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary and other authorities were doing. He urged the Government to order a high-level probe into the matter.

He also took a dig at the Government's claims on declining COVID positivity rate, saying that COVID tests have been deliberately capped to show that positivity has come down.

MLA M. Ashwin Kumar, City JD(S) President K.T. Cheluvegowda, Corporators SBM Manju, Ashwini Ananthu, Prema Shankaregowda, M.D. Nagaraj and K.V. Sridhar, leaders K.V. Mallesh, R. Lingappa, Shailendra and others were present.

Ex-MLA accuses Govt. of under-reporting COVID deaths

Mysuru, May 31(PM&DM)- Terming the BJP Government as a factory of lies, former K.R. MLA M.K. Somashekar alleged that the Union and State Governments were under-reporting COVID deaths and the Mysuru District Administration was no different.

Addressing a press meet at Congress Bhavan near the City Railway Station here yesterday, Somashekar charged the BJP Government of hiding the actual number of COVID deaths.

Accusing Prime Minister Modi and the State BJP Government of misleading people by under-reporting COVID deaths, the former Congress MLA claimed that Mysuru District Administration had showed the number of deaths on May 27 only as 18 when the actual number was 34. Likewise, only 20 deaths were reported on May 28 when the actual number of deaths was 33, he said.

Wondering what would the actual figures be in the State Capital Bengaluru which reports the highest COVID casualties in the State every day, Somashekar contended that there is gross dissimilarities in COVID death figures in Gujarat too, where the BJP Government is in power for decades.

Continuing his charge against the Government, the former MLA maintained that the Government was misleading the people on COVID positivity rate too. Accusing the BJP of coming up with a false narrative that positivity rate was coming down, he said that the Government has reduced testing and was shutting down testing centres gradually.

Referring to vaccination drive, Somashekar said that the drive was a publicity stunt as people are waiting for days to receive jabs.

Arguing that the Government was miserably short of vaccines, he alleged that the Government, by failing to vaccinate people for free, was forcing them to go to private hospitals for the jab, which is available for a high price.

City Congress Vice-President Rajaram, Corporator J. Gopi, leaders M. Sunil, Girish, Niral Shah, Gunashekar and others were present.

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Om Shanti.

Mourned by friends and relatives

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